

October 11, 1974

Dr. Nathaniel D. M. Hirsch, Ph.D  
50 East 83rd Street  
New York, N. Y. 10028

Dear Dr. Hirsch:

Your monogram arrived a few days ago. Apparently it was delayed a long time in the mails.

Both my wife and I have read your study with keen interest. You reached a conclusion which time has confirmed; Eastern Kentucky mountaineers are in decline as a result of in-breeding and out migration.

I am afraid the population as a whole is doomed to genetic ruin unless something can be done to enrich the gene pool. During the Johnson years when anti-poverty programs were in vogue I once told a federal official that the best way to fight poverty in east Kentucky would be to move an army camp into the region. My theory was that the soldiers would get the mountain girls pregnant to the everlasting benefit of the region as a whole. I still think the suggestion was sound.

I am sending you a copy of my book Night Comes to the Cumberlands which I hope you will find of interest.

Very truly yours,

Harry M. Caudill